

variation within both sexes of the species, can only be determined by examination of further material.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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#### REFERENCE

Schmitz, H. 1941. Phoridae. In: Lindner, E. (Ed.). *Die Fliegen der palaearktischen Region* **4(33)** (Lieferung 141): 65–128.

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#### SHORT COMMUNICATION

*Platypalpus bilobatus* Wéber (Diptera: Hybotidae), and *Chelifera astigma* Collin (Diptera: Empididae) in northern England—*Platypalpus bilobatus* was reported as new to Britain by D. A. Smith (*Entomologist's Mon. Mag.* 1990; **126**: 59) on the basis of a single male taken at Grays Chalk Quarry, Essex 31.vi.1981, and several specimens at the same site in the following year. An appeal by me for further records in *Empid and Dolichopodid Study Group Newsheet* No. 14 (February 1996) produced no response and I here report what therefore appears to be the second British locality for this species.

Four males and two females were collected in Forge Valley Woods National Nature Reserve near Scarborough, North Yorkshire between 15 and 30.vi.1995 where they occurred in an area of calcareous flushes on a wooded hillside. Initially I could not name the specimens and I am obliged to Dr Milan Chvála for suggesting that they may be of this species and to Jonathan Cole for subsequently confirming the identification.

There was no difficulty in naming several male specimens of *Chelifera astigma* collected in the same locality on 28 and 30.vi.1995 and single examples of what are possibly females of this species on the latter date and 12.viii.1995. Originally described by J. E. Collin in 1927 on the basis of a single male collected by Dr J. H. Wood at Churchyard Dingle, Herefordshire 4.vii.1907 (*Entomologist's Mon. Mag.* **43**: 94), the capture of a single male at Cwm Sere, Brecon 28.v.89 was reported by Dr Adrian R. Plant in *Empid and Dolichopodid Study Group Newsheet* No. 8 (February 1990). In his note, Dr Plant included an illustration of the male genitalia which is not figured in Collin (*British Flies* 6: Empididae).

There is an undated record of this species from Sabden in *The Diptera of Lancashire and Cheshire Part 1* by L. N. Kidd and A. Brindle, published by the Lancashire and Cheshire Fauna Committee in 1959, and an unpublished old record from Beattock, Dumfriesshire which needs tracing and confirming—ROY CROSSLEY, 1 The Cloisters, Wilberfoss, York YO4 5RF.